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Letter dated 18 December 2008 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Following the adoption by the Security Council on 16 December 2008 of resolution 1852 (2008) extending the mandate of the International Independent Investigation Commission to the end of February 2009, I am pleased to inform you that I have decided, in accordance with article 19 (2) of the annex to Council resolution 1757 (2007), that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon shall commence on 1 March 2009. I have also consulted the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Fouad Siniora, and the Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission, Daniel Bellemare, as required by article 19 (2).

The commencement of the Special Tribunal will mark an important step towards ending impunity in Lebanon and bringing to justice those responsible for the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri and for related attacks.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

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